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(54) **AAV-MEDIATED GENE THERAPY RESTORING THE OTOFERLIN GENE**

(57) The present inventors report here, in the DFNB9 mouse model (OTOF knock-out mice), the first proof-of-principle that cochlear delivery of a fragmented cDNA via a dual-AAV vector approach can effectively and long-lastingly correct the profound deafness phenotype of these mice when administered well after their auditory system has matured (P30). The present invention therefore concerns a vector system that allows the ex-

pression of the full-length Otoferlin polypeptide, or of a functional fragment thereof, in inner hair cells, for use for treating patients suffering from DFNB9 deafness or preventing DFNB9 deafness in patients having DFNB9 mutations, wherein said patients are patients having a developed and mature auditory system, such as new born babies, toddlers, infants, teenagers or adults.

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	HANAN AL-MOYED ET AL: "A dual-AAV approach restores fast exocytosis and partially rescues auditory function in deaf otoferlin knock-out mice", EMBO MOLECULAR MEDICINE (ONLINE), vol. 11, no. 1, 1 January 2019 (2019-01-01), page e9396, XP055574125, DE ISSN: 1757-4684, DOI: 10.15252/emmm.201809396	1, 3-15	INV. A61K38/16 A61K48/00 A61P27/16 C07K14/00
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 29 January 2024	Examiner Vandenbogaerde, Ann
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	